

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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GAIN Report Number:

Namibia

Post: Pretoria

Success Story - New Market Access for U.S. Bovine Semen

Report Categories:

Export Accomplishments - Other

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Report Highlights:

Bilateral negotiations between the United States and Namibia for a new Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC) have been finalized and U.S. exporters of bovine semen have gained expanded market access in Southern Africa.

General Information:

On February 18, 2014, bilateral negotiations between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Namibia's Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Forestry, concluded negotiations to finalize the Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC) for the export of bovine semen from the United States into Namibia.

The market was closed for U.S. exports in September 2010 due to new Namibian veterinary requirements. The USDA team, led by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) in Pretoria, coordinated with APHIS's Veterinary Services, National Import Export Services (VS NIES) on the technical contents of the VHC. On January 30, 2014, APHIS Pretoria received confirmation from VS NIES that the certification language on using specified test for Bovine Viral Diarrhea and Johne's disease had been resolved. The U.S. bovine semen to Namibia has an estimated value of \$100,000 annually.

The meat industry in Namibia is known for its top quality animals. According to the Meat Board of Namibia, the country's cattle herd numbers is approximately two million. It is estimated that more than 400,000 head of cattle are marketed annually. About 80 percent of Namibia's total annual production of beef is exported.

Cattle in Namibia is formally marketed to the abattoirs in the Northern Communal areas (2 abattoirs), the local butchers, to export abattoirs (4 abattoirs) or live to South Africa. Most cattle, however, are either exported live to South Africa (about 50 percent) or to export abattoirs (about 40 percent). The marketing of cattle as live exports to South Africa mainly comprises of weaner calves destined for feedlots. The Meat Corporation of Namibia (Metco) is Namibia's largest processor of beef and owns the two abattoirs in the Northern Communal areas and two export abattoirs.

This issue is now closed and U.S. exporters of bovine semen have gained expanded markets in Southern Africa.